

IOWA HAWKEYES

University of Iowa Sports Information -- Chris Brewer, Cross Country Contact



CROSS COUNTRY WEEKLY RELEASE

November 10, 2003

2003 Men's Schedule

- Aug. 29 Hawkeye Invitational
(2nd/4 teams)
- Sept. 12 at Iowa State Open
(No team scores)
- Sept. 27 at Roy Griak Invitational
(17th/30 teams)
- Oct. 18 at Pre-National Meet
(11th/35 teams)
- Nov. 2 at Big Ten Championships
(5th/10 teams)
- Nov. 15 at NCAA Midwest Regional
Stillwater, OK
- Nov. 24 at NCAA Championships
Cedar Falls, IA

2003 Women's Schedule

- Aug. 29 Hawkeye Invitational
(1st/2 teams)
- Sept. 12 at Iowa State Open
(no team scores)
- Oct. 4 at Willamette Invitational
(7th/19 teams)
- Oct. 18 at Pre-National Meet
(28th/32 teams)
- Nov. 2 at Big Ten Championships
(11th/11 teams)
- Nov. 15 at NCAA Midwest Regional
Stillwater, OK
- Nov. 24 at NCAA Championships
Cedar Falls, IA

THIS WEEK - The University of Iowa men's and women's cross country teams travel to Stillwater, OK, Saturday to compete in the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships on the campus of Oklahoma State. The women's 6,000-meter race will begin at noon (CT) and the men's 10,000-meter race will begin at 11 a.m. (CT) at the OSU Cross Country Course.

IOWA AT THE 2002 CHAMPIONSHIPS - The Iowa men captured the first Regional Championship in school history in 2002. Iowa returns four of its seven runners from last season's team, including top finisher Matt Esche. The Hawkeye women did not compete at the Midwest Regional a year ago.

NATIONAL POLLS - The United States Cross Country Coaches Association sponsored by MONDO rank the Hawkeye men 30th nationally and third in the Midwest Region.

CONFERENCE HONORS - Junior Tony Rakaric and sophomore Brian Rae earned second team all-Big Ten honors at the Big Ten Championships November 2. Rakaric and Rae finished 11th and 13th, respectively.

RECORD BREAKER - Freshman Nikki Chapple recorded the fastest 6,000-meter time in school history at the NCAA Pre-National Meet October 18th. Chapple finished the course in 21:45, eclipsing the old mark of 21:58 set by teammate Sarah Arens in 2000. The NCAA Pre-National Meet was only the second competition of Chapple's young career.

HAWKEYE COACH LARRY WIECZOREK - Larry Wieczorek is in his 17th season as Iowa men's head cross country coach. In the past five years, Iowa has placed no lower than sixth at the NCAA Regional, including a first place finish at the 2002 NCAA Regional, the highest finish in school history. Wieczorek was a two-time Big Ten champion and a member of Iowa's last Big Ten track championship team in 1967. Wieczorek owns Iowa records in the outdoor 5,000-meters and the indoor two mile.

HAWKEYE COACH LAYNE ANDERSON - Layne Anderson enters his first season as Iowa women's head cross country coach. Anderson served as the head men's and women's cross country coach and assistant track coach at Auburn University prior to joining the Iowa staff. During his tenure at Auburn, he coached seven all-Americans, two SEC champions and 58 academic all-SEC performers.

QUOTING COACH WIECZOREK - "Though we enter this week ranked third in our region, we're going in as the defending champions and our goal is defend our title. I feel we can do just that if we run as well as we did at the Big Ten Championships."

QUOTING COACH ANDERSON - "We are going to need a complete group effort if we want to improve on last weekend's finish. We recieved a solid effort from our front four runners but we need to have that fifth runner come through for us if we want to compete at the regionals."

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